

Senate Bill No. 112

CHAPTER 492

An act to amend Section 13276 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

[Approved by Governor October 4, 2005. Filed with
Secretary of State October 4, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 112, Ortiz. Refugee social services.

Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services must require that a county's costs in administering employment-related and English language training programs funded by certain program funds derived from the federal Refugee Act of 1980 not exceed the percentage for county administrative costs permitted by the department in administering the Refugee Targeted Assistance Program. Existing law requires the department to allocate all social services funds derived from the act, after setting aside state administrative funds, and all federal targeted assistance funds received by the department, to each eligible county in the same proportion that the number of refugees on aid in each eligible county bears to the total number of refugees on aid in all eligible counties. Existing law defines "aid" and "eligible county" for these purposes.

This bill would revise these provisions to require the department, in allocating these funds, to assign differential weights for refugees, based on the length of time they have resided in the United States. The bill would make conforming changes in the applicable definitions.

The bill would instead require the department, after setting aside the necessary state administrative funds, to allocate all federal targeted assistance funds received by the department to the counties designated by the federal government as eligible, in the same way funds are allocated under a federal formula.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 13276 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

13276. (a) After setting aside the necessary state administrative funds, the department shall allocate all social services funds derived from the federal Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212), as amended, that are required to be used for employment-related and English language training to each eligible county, in the same proportion that refugees on aid in each eligible county bears to the total refugees on aid in all eligible counties.

The department shall assign differential weights for refugees based on the length of time that they have resided in the United States, as follows:

(1) For refugees who have resided in this country one year or less, the department shall use a weight of 1.50 for the purposes of calculating the allocation in this subdivision.

(2) For refugees who have resided in this country two years or less, but more than one year, the department shall use a weight of 1.25 for the purposes of calculating the allocation in this subdivision.

(3) For refugees who have resided in this country five years or less, but more than two years, the department shall use a weight of 1.00 for the purposes of calculating the allocation in this subdivision.

(b) After setting aside the necessary state administrative funds, the department shall allocate all federal targeted assistance received by the department to the counties designated by the federal government as eligible in the same way funds are allocated by the federal government in the final targeted assistance formula allocations to states.

(c) For the purposes of this section, “eligible county” means a county or city and county designated as impacted using a formula to be developed by the department based upon the refugee arrivals in the county during the preceding 60-month period for which the department has data.